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## TURKEY.

*Sanitary report from Constantinople.*

[Report No. 205.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, *December 14, 1898.*

The plague epidemic is abating in Bombay and has also disappeared from Russia. I am glad to be able to state that, because one or two weeks ago it was stated that plague cases occurred in the Caucasus as well as in Poland. Said cases never existed. At Anzob, in the district of Samarcand, the epidemic has already disappeared, and public health in Asiatic Russia is perfect. This official sanitary news was communicated at the last sitting of the international sanitary commission, held the 13th instant, by Mr. Karakauowsky, M. D., the Russian sanitary commissioner. He communicated that the epidemic at Anzob was imported through Belluchistan and Afghanistan, where it is feared that cases still exist. The Russian Government, in order to prevent the importation of said epidemic from India, had given stringent orders to forbid the Moslem pilgrims to go to the Hedjaz through India. The latter, in spite of said orders, went on their pilgrimage to the holy cities of Islam, but through Afghanistan and Belluchistan, which have been contaminated by said pilgrims coming back home from Djiddah. From Teheran we have received the following sanitary news: Public health in Persia is perfect, excepting at Meshed, where many persons, among whom very many children, suffer from enlargement of the lymphatic glands.

I can not understand how public health may be perfect in a country where many persons suffer from buboes, especially at a time when plague is raging in the neighboring places. It must not be forgotten that Meshed is a city where there is a continuous gathering of Moslem pilgrims, especially from India, Afghanistan, Belluchistan, and Persia. It has been alleged that said buboes have to be attributed to venereal diseases in little children too.

*Plague in Madagascar.*—The outbreak of plague at Madagascar was officially announced at the above mentioned sitting of the international sanitary commission. It is very much to be feared that said disease will spread by sanitary smuggling, as it was imported to Madagascar from India. I must remember that in 1892 cholera was imported to Yemen by a slave ship smuggling negroes, landed at Maidé, and thence to Lokeia. The disease spread rapidly in all the Yemen, wherefrom it was imported to Asia Minor by the soldiers coming back home. (See my report of November 4, 1892.)

*Sanitary smuggling as a means of spreading plague.*—By sanitary smuggling plague was imported last year, or rather two years ago, to Djiddah. I have already mentioned in my previous reports the decision taken by the international sanitary commission then to communicate to the Ottoman Government the necessity of having at the entrance of the Red Sea, at Bab-el-Mandeb, a dispatch boat in order to survey the little sailing boats (sambooks or hutras) which swarm in the Indian Ocean and which sail without any ship's papers. They sail generally on smuggling purposes. Said decision could not be put into execution at that time because the Turkish Government considered said service as a sanitary one, and claimed, as a consequence, to have the coal of said dispatch boat paid for by the sanitary board. At the last sitting it was decided to reconsider the matter and present again to the Imperial

Government the facts as well as the great danger to which the country is exposed by said sanitary smuggling.

*Diseases in the city—Typhoid fever.*—In Constantinople we have to deal with the same epidemics, *i. e.*, influenza, smallpox, diphtheria, and typhoid fever. I can not omit to report the sad fact of the outbreak of a little epidemic of typhoid fever which raged in one of the French schools of this town. The pupils of the school of N. D. de Sion have been obliged, nobody knows why, to drink the water of the wells of said school. It is well-known that well waters, especially in towns like in Constantinople, are unhealthy. In Constantinople, besides being unhealthy, said water is brackish and repulsive. Nine young ladies fell ill from the 25th of last October to the 6th of November. From these 9 cases 3 have already proved fatal, and the other 6 are not yet out of danger.

The number of deaths registered in Constantinople from November 28 to December 5, is 408, of which 2 are from measles, 7 from diphtheria, 7 from typhoid fever, and 26 from smallpox.

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO,  
United States Sanitary Commissioner.

#### WEST INDIES.

##### *Current quarantine measures.*

BARBADOS, *December 24, 1898.*

SIR: My last circular was dated October 29, since when I have to report as follows:

*Barbados.*—The quarantine here against Santos, La Guayra, and Caracas was removed on the 19th instant, but all vessels from La Guayra are inspected by the health officer before being admitted to pratique in order to ascertain that there is no one on board from other infected places in Venezuela.

Quarantine is in force here against Bahia, Cuba, Para, Rio Janeiro, and Venezuela (except Barancas, Ciudad Bolivar, Caracas, and La Guayra). Vessels from these four places and Puerto Rico are subjected to medical inspection.

*Trinidad.*—The quarantine there against the whole of Venezuela was removed on the 22d instant.

*St. Thomas.*—The quarantine there against Caracas, La Guayra, Puerto Cabello, and Valencia was removed on November 11, but all vessels from those places are subject to medical inspection.

Quarantine is in force there against Bahia, Cuba, Marguerita, Para, Rio Janeiro, Vera Cruz, and Tampico.

*Para.*—The British consul reports 5 deaths in September from yellow fever, 6 in October, and 23 in November.

The British and American consular bills of health issued on 4th instant to the steamship *Grangense*, respectively, stated that there had been 9 and 12 deaths from yellow fever in the preceding week and fortnight, respectively.

*St. Vincent.*—Free pratique is granted to arrivals from all ports in Venezuela to the South of Cape Paria with satisfactory certificates from accredited agents.

*St. Lucia.*—Quarantine is in force there against Bahia, Cuba, Curacao, La Guayra, Para, Puerto Cabello, Rio Janeiro, Santos, and Valencia.

The reports kindly forwarded by the chairman of the quarantine